

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 12, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the specification, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-33 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 3, 8, 13, 16, 21, 26, 28, and 33 are independent. Claims 2-8, 10, 12-13, 15-21, 23, 25-26, 28, and 30-32 have been amended and claim 33 has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 1, 14, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, all of claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-33 are submitted for consideration and timely allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended Applicants' representative during the interview on February 8, 2006. As discussed as being possible to overcome the objection the objected to claims have been amended, and claim 33 based on previously pending claim 27 but adding "and said first channel is synchronized to a third channel that is separate from the first channel and the second channel" has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims recite allowable subject matter, and timely allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Drawings were objected to because of a discrepancy between the drawings and the specification with regard to the ARL/L3 tables, the rules tables, and the VLAN tables. The Specification has been amended to correspond with the identifiers already depicted. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is moot in view of the amendments to the Specification. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4-7, 14, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,346,089 of Tsui et al. ("Tsui") in view U.S. Patent No. 6,246,680 of Muller et al. ("Muller") or LEVEL ONE. Claims 2 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsui in view of LEVEL ONE. Claims 10-11 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsui in view of Muller or LEVEL ONE and further in view of Hegde. Claims 12 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsui in view of Muller or LEVEL ONE and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,849 of Bray et al. ("Bray"). Claims 27 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsui. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsui in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,570,875 of Hegde ("Hegde"). Applicants respectfully submit that the

rejections are moot as to cancelled claims 1, 14, and 27. All of claims 2, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 17-20, 23-25, and 30-31 are now dependent on a claim that has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter over the cited art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above rejections are moot in view of the dependence of claims 2, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 17-20, 23-25, and 30-31 because they are each patentable for at least the reasons the claim from which they respectively depend is patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 8-9, 13, 16, 21-22, 26, and 28-29 contain allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendments above, claims 3, 8-9, 13, 16, 21-22, 26, and 28-29 are presently in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 3, 8-9, 13, 16, 21-22, 26, and 28-29 because of dependence on a rejected base claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment filed herewith renders the objections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.


Conclusion

As noted above, each of claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-33 contains allowable subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-33 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal (1); and Check No. 14078